

**Getting to Know**  
**Rev. Jon Raymond Faraone**  
**Mayfield, Kentucky**

**Ordination Date:** July 31, 1988

**Ecclesiastical status:**

PC(USA) Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament

**Formal Education:**

2007, D. Min., McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL

1988, M. Div., Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA

1982, B.A., King College, Bristol, TN

1980, A.A., Montreat Anderson College, Montreat, NC

Jon serves as the head of staff of the First Presbyterian Church, Mayfield, KY which is a typical county seat town located in Western Kentucky. The congregation has an average attendance of around 100 with around 175 on the active membership roles. God called him to the Mayfield church in 1997 and this June made 13 years that he has been blessed to serve this congregation, community, and the Western Kentucky Presbytery.



***Meet the Faraone Family***

*Left- Bethany Kim Faraone- She is 21 and is a Senior at Covenant College on Lookout Mt. Next week she will be home after spending 12 weeks in northern Uganda doing a mission intern position.*

*Middle- Marielle Elizabeth Faraone- She will be 19 at the end of the this month and is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student at Carson Newman College in Jefferson City, TN. She completed her summer as a white water rafting guide on the Pigeon River.*

*Right- Elena Sharayah Faraone- She will be 24 in December. She is a graduate of Murray State University and is a store manager for a Maurices Clothing store in Owensboro, KY.*

*Lower Left- Deborah Faraone- She is Jon's college sweetheart and he is wise enough not to tell you her age. But this month they will be celebrating their 27th anniversary. Jon says that she is spiritually gifted in patience and perseverance because she has learned to put up with Jon for a long time. He claims to be blessed to know her as an incredible mother, a great daughter, and a sweetheart for a wife.*

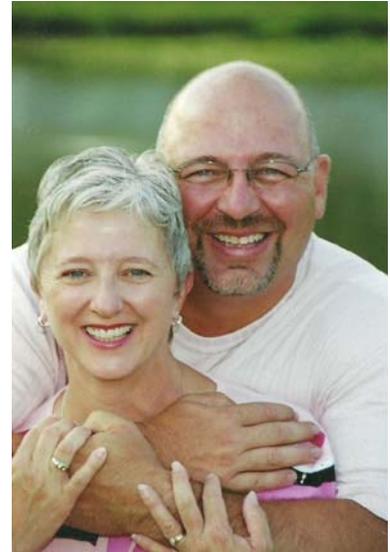
*Lower center- Brandon Jon Paul Faraone- He is their little man. God blessed them with the honor and privilege of raising him. God brought him to them by way of Guatemala where he was abandoned at two weeks old and became an orphan of the state. After two years of homeland security and Guatemalan bureaucratic hurdle jumping, they brought him home News Years Day, 2003. He will soon be 9 years old.*

**Primary Skills:**

- Congregational Home Visitation
- Congregational Redevelopment / Revitalization
- Evangelism
- Group Process Facilitation
- Involvement in Mission Beyond the Local Church
- Leadership Development
- Leadership of Staff / Volunteers
- Pastoral Care; Preaching; Teaching

Jon is currently chair of the Presbytery Mission Development Committee. He also serves as a member of the PJC. Finally, he serves on a Presbytery appointed discernment task force to develop a strategy to help a Presbytery as it deals with controversial issues.

- Minister commissioner to the 2008 G.A.,
- Chair of the Presbytery Finance committee
- Served on Commission to deal with a Korean church conflict. In the past 11 years, he has also served on three other commissions that dealt with conflicts between pastors and congregations.
- He served as Vice Moderator, Moderator, and chair of the Mission Coordinating Council (three year cycle).
- He chaired the Leadership Development Committee (five years).
- He led, organized, and/or participated in six Sr. High Mission trips, 3 Jr. High trips, and 1 adult mission trip.
- He served on the Committee on Ministry and moderated sessions. (Three years). He also led elder training events, made triennium visits and was asked to be a consultant with another minister in a church conflict situation beyond our Presbytery bounds.
- He led and participated in three revivals/ Spiritual Renewal weekends for three different congregations.
- He served and later became chair of the Mission Development Committee (three years).
- He served as moderator for congregations without pastors and is currently filling the pulpit for another Presbyterian church in a nearby community.



Jon enjoys being given opportunities to share with struggling churches that experience resurrection moments in their life and ministry. Seeing a growing need in the church, he went back to school and earned his Doctorate in area of Parish Revitalization. He enjoys working with individuals, committees, and congregations as they explore ways to rediscover their sense of purpose, re-energize their sense of belonging to a community of faith, and rekindle their sense of empowerment from God as they seek to improve their call to ministry in an ever-changing world.

In 2006, his congregation took a step of faith and built a new ministry center which has expanded the church's ministry opportunities ranging from having ballroom dance classes to the Red Cross using the church as a shelter in times of crisis.

In addition, for the past two years he also served as part time pastor for a smaller congregation in Calvert City, KY. He said it has been a blessing to share in the way God is refreshing their spirits and their sense of purpose in their ministry.

Jon's leadership style is based on a relational approach. By listening to and sharing faith stories, he learns to appreciate how God works in each person's life. Being involved with the joys and the sorrows of God's people, he is given the opportunity to share in those experiences. Over the years, he has held newborn babies and baptized them, he has shepherded teenagers as they have grown up and married, celebrated with those who have been married for 50 years or more, and have stood at the bedside of those who breathed their last and entered into the heavenly presence of God. By building genuine relationships, built on care and concern, he has discovered that people are more willing to open themselves up to reveal what God is doing in their lives and experience growth in their faith. With that in mind, he leads by being a servant-leader. He earnestly strives to model service while coming alongside his congregation to encourage each individual as they explore ways to utilize their gifts and abilities in ministry. He works behind the scenes to support, equip, and empower God's people in their service for Christ.

### **A Brief Statement of Faith by Rev. Dr. Jon Faraone**

My faith is grounded on what I learned in my confirmation classes which focused on the theology of one of the oldest creeds in the Christian faith- the Apostles Creed. Through his knowledge and love of the Scriptures, Dr. Ben L. Rose, helped me to better understand God and the relationship God desires to have with me and all who were created in God's image. He testified to me that the Apostles Creed is a statement of belief which is built on the foundation of God's inspired word which includes both the Old and New Testament. Though spoken and written over thousands of years by both men and women, prophets and scribes, its words, its teachings, its stories still resonate through God's Spirit the revelations of who God is, who we are as God's people, the reality of sin, how God deals with sin ultimately through Jesus, the Christ, God's only Son, and what we are do in response to what God has done and continues to do in us. Though God is greater than our imagination and understanding, I believe what God wants us to know about God is revealed to us in God's word.

To begin with, this creed reveals to us that God is the Father Almighty who is the Maker of heaven and earth. It is God who created the heavens, the earth and everything in it. I believe in God's desire to have relationship with God's creation, God created humanity in God's image, both male and female, and said it was good.

At the same time, God created humanity with the ability to choose, think, and process because God wanted to have a relationship with those whom God created. Unfortunately, it is that ability to choose that became the source for sin (rebellion and rejection of God) which distorted, distracted and disassembled the relationship God wanted to build. Both the Old and New Testaments are filled with stories of the damaged relationship between God the Creator and Humanity, now broken by sin.

In addition, this creed then unveils God's response to our sin situation. I believe that God sent God's only begotten Son, who was present before creation and participated in the making of heaven and earth and voluntarily presented himself to become the Savior of humanity who struggle in their sin. His name is Jesus, the Christ. My faith upholds the truth of Hebrews 1:3 where it is written, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven." There is no other way to understand the fullness of the love and grace of God outside of accepting and growing in our knowledge of Jesus.

Finally, this creed opens our eyes of faith to God's Spirit who begins God's work in us at our moment of conception and continues to mold, shape, and use us until our last breath on earth. It is this Holy Spirit that brings God's word to life and helps us to better understand it. This Spirit within us moves in accordance to God's will to challenge, convict, comfort, and confirm those who are called to be God's servants. The sacraments, baptism and communion, the simple elements of water, bread and juice, are means which God's Spirit uses to remind us of who we are as God's children and how God, through the love and grace of God's son, sustains us while we live on this earth until we are united with God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in heaven.

In closing, Dr. Rose taught me that this unique and wonderful relationship with God that is revealed to us in the Scriptures, simplified by the Apostles Creed, is not something we are to keep to ourselves. Rather, it is our calling and mission to share with others what this creed and God's Word reveals to us about the constant love of God and invite them to experience how God can redeem and transform their lives in the midst of an ever-changing, sin-tainted world.